AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this claim listing supersede all versions of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) An immunogenic conjugate comprising

a carrier protein, and

a group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment obtained from an O-acetyl positive group Y meningococcal polysaccharide, wherein the group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment has a molecular weight less than about 150 kDa and has been O-deacetylated by at least 80%, and is completely N-acetylated;

wherein the carrier protein is covalently coupled to the group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment at the de-O-acetylation sites; and

~~wherein the group Y meningococcal fragment is completely N-acetylated,~~

wherein the immunogenic conjugate is suitable for use as a vaccine against N. meningitidis infection.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The immunogenic conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment has a molecular weight from about 2.5 kDa to about 100 kDa.

5. (Previously presented) The immunogenic conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment has a molecular weight from about 10 kDa to about 20 kDa.

6. (cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The immunogenic conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the carrier protein is a bacterial toxin or toxoid.

8. (Previously presented) The immunogenic conjugate according to claim 7, wherein the bacteria toxin or toxoid is selected from the group consisting of diphtheria, tetanus, pseudomonas, staphylococcus, streptococcus, pertussis and *Escherichia coli* toxin or toxoid.

9. (Previously presented) The immunogenic conjugate according to claim 7, wherein the bacterial toxin or toxoid is tetanus toxin or toxoid.

10. (cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A vaccine comprising the immunogenic conjugate according to claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) The vaccine according to claim 11, wherein the bacterial toxin or toxoid is selected from the group consisting of diphtheria, tetanus, pseudomonas, staphylococcus, streptococcus, meningococcal porin B, pertussis and Escherichia coli toxin or toxoid.

13. (Currently amended) The vaccine according to claim 11~~0~~, wherein the bacterial toxin or toxoid is tetanus toxin or toxoid.

14. (Previously presented) The vaccine according to claim 11, further comprising an adjuvant.

15. (Previously presented) The vaccine according to claim 14, wherein the adjuvant is aluminum hydroxide.

16. (Previously presented) A vaccine according to claim 11, wherein the vaccine is adapted for administration by injection.

17. (cancelled)

18. (withdrawn and currently amended) The use of a modified polysaccharide as defined in claim 1 in the manufacture of a vaccine for use in meningitidies against Group Y *Neisseria meningitidies*.

19. (withdrawn and currently amended) The use of a conjugated material as defined in claim 4 in the manufacture of a vaccine for use in meningitidies against Group Y *Neisseria meningitidies*.

20. (withdrawn and currently amended) A process for the manufacture of a vaccine for use in immunisation against Group Y *Neisseria meningitidies*, which process comprises providing a modified polysaccharide as defined in claim 1 and optionally mixing it with one or more of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium, diluent or adjuvant.

21. (withdrawn and currently amended) A process for the manufacture of a vaccine for use in immunisation against Group Y *Neisseria meningitidies*, which process comprises providing a conjugated material as defined in claim 4 and optionally mixing it with one or more of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium, diluent or adjuvant.

22. (withdrawn and currently amended) The use of a vaccine as defined in claim 9 for meningitidies against Group Y *Neisseria meningitidies*.

23. (withdrawn) A process for vaccinating a warm-blooded animal against Group Y *Neisseria meningitidis*, which process comprises administering a vaccine as defined in claim 9 to the animal.

24. (withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a modified meningococcal Y polysaccharide, which process comprises subjecting a meningococcal Y polysaccharide to base hydrolysis such that the meningococcal Y polysaccharide is at least in part de-O-acetylated.

25. (withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a modified meningococcal Y polysaccharide, which process comprises subjecting a meningococcal Y polysaccharide to acid hydrolysis such that the meningococcal Y polysaccharide is fragmented.

26. (withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a modified meningococcal Y polysaccharide fragment having a molecular weight of from 10 to 20 kDa, which process comprises:

(a) providing an at least partially purified meningococcal Y polysaccharide;

(b) base hydrolysis of the polysaccharide;

(c) acid hydrolysis of the product of step (a); and optionally

(d) re-N-acetylating of the product of step (b).

27. (withdrawn) A process for producing a conjugated product as defined in claim 4, which process comprises contacting a modified meningococcal Y polysaccharide with a carrier protein, optionally in the presence of a coupling agent.

28. (withdrawn) A combination meningococcal conjugate vaccine including de-OAc forms of group Y, group C and group W135 meningococcal polysaccharides for prevention of meningococcal Y, C and W135 disease.

29. (Previously presented) An immunogenic conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the group Y meningococcal polysaccharide fragment is 100% O-deacetylated.

30. (Currently amended) An immunogenic conjugate comprising

a carrier protein, and

a polysaccharide, wherein said polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of an O-acetyl negative group Y and a fragment of an O-acetyl positive group Y meningococcal polysaccharide,

wherein the fragment of an O-acetyl positive group Y meningococcal polysaccharide has a molecular weight in the range of about 5 to about 150 kDa, has been O-deacetylated by at least 80%, and is completely N-acetylated,

wherein the carrier protein is covalently coupled to the polysaccharide at the de-O-acetylation sites; and

wherein the immunogenic conjugate is suitable for use as a vaccine against N. meningitidis infection.